

## BIRD RINGING IN 1985

By

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The improved levels of coverage achieved in 1984 were maintained in 1985, with ringers present for 5 weeks in spring and 7½ weeks in autumn. The total of 2166 birds ringed was better even than the previous year's exceptionally high total, thanks largely to a major arrival of Willow Warblers in spring. This species' total for the year (476) was four times its average value. Other species with totals over 100 were Swallow, Blackbird, Blackcap, Chiffchaff and Goldcrest, though Blackcap and Goldcrest numbers were lower than in 1984, Goldcrests probably having been affected by the severe weather early in 1985. Pied Flycatchers were very numerous, with 87 ringed, compared with an annual average of only 12. The total of 48 Siskins is greater than their 1947-84 grand total; it reflects the exceptional influx of continental birds into Britain in the autumn.

In addition to the good number of birds ringed, the number of species involved was also particularly high, standing at 68. These included four that were new to the island's ringing list — Gray-cheeked Thrush, Red-eyed Vireo, Hawfinch and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Other species of which 5 or fewer have been ringed before on Lundy were Dotterel, Little Stint, Pectoral Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper (the second), Swift, Yellow Wagtail, Bluethroat, three Marsh Warblers (after only three previously), Arctic Warbler (the second) and two Lapland Buntings (four previously). Red-breasted Flycatchers had another exceptional showing: there were only 5 in the period 1947-83, then three in '84 and a further three in '85. A complete list of ringing totals for 1985 is given below.

The high ringing totals in 1984 and 1985, together with the severe weather early in 1985 led to a larger number of recoveries and controls than usual. Details of these are given below. The highlights are a Redstart found in Morocco, a Spotted Flycatcher reaching Cadiz in 24 days in autumn (an old record which has only just reached us), a migrating spring Pied Flycatcher which, in reaching Lundy, was almost on target for its breeding site near Barnstaple, and two Willow Warblers moving quickly north in spring, one from the Scillies and one to Bardsey, each in three days.

Analyses of ringing data are included in a note on Manx Shearwaters (p.23) and a paper on Blackcaps etc. (p.21) in this report.

We are again most grateful to Mary Gade for looking after our rings, nets etc. on the island. Various ringers, particularly John Walder, have done valuable maintenance work on the Heligoland traps during the year and our thanks are also due to Michael King who has arranged a good supply of mist-net poles and very kindly donated mist-nets to the Society in recent years.

RINGING TOTALS 1985

Manx Shearwater	21	Marsh Warbler	3
Shag	4(4)	Reed Warbler	2
Kestrel	1	Icterine Warbler	1
Water Rail	1	Melodious Warbler	1
Dotterel	1	Lesser Whitethroat	4
Little Stint	1	Whitethroat	13
Pectoral Sandpiper	1	Garden Warbler	57
Curlew Sandpiper	1	Blackcap	130
Collared Dove	1	Arctic Warbler	1
Cuckoo	1	Yellow-browed Warbler	1
Swift	1	Wood Warbler	4
Skylark	2	Chiffchaff	116
Sand Martin	3	Willow Warbler	476
Swallow	352	Goldcrest	184
House Martin	2	Firecrest	3
Tree Pipit	2	Spotted Flycatcher	55
Meadow Pipit	69	Red-breasted Flycatcher	3
Yellow Wagtail	1	Pied Flycatcher	87
Grey Wagtail	8	Great Tit	3
Wren	46	Treecreeper	1
Dunnock	61	Starling	9
Robin	36	House Sparrow	8
Nightingale	1	Red-eyed Vireo*	1
Bluethroat	1	Chaffinch	44
Redstart	16	Greenfinch	7
Whinchat	3	Goldfinch	5
Stonechat	1	Siskin	48
Wheatear	1	Linnet	70
Gray-cheeked Thrush*	1	Redpoll	1
Blackbird	117(3)	Scarlet Rosefinch	1
Fieldfare	1	Hawfinch*	1
Song Thrush	13	Lapland Bunting	2
Redwing	12	Rose-breasted Grosbeak*	1
Grasshopper Warbler	12		
Sedge Warbler	28	Total	2166

\*Added to the Lundy ringing list in 1985.

Figures in brackets indicate pulli (included in the main totals).

## RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS, 1985

- FV21204 Manx Shearwater. Ringed as full grown bird on Lundy, 4.5.83. Found dead (oiled) at Boverton Beach, Glamorgan, Wales, 15.8.85. (88km; bearing 74°; duration 834 days).
- FV21224 Manx Shearwater. Ringed as full grown bird on Lundy, 30.4.85. Found dead on Lundy, 7.6.85. (38 days).
- I102092 Shag. Ringed as pullus on Lundy, 14.5.85. Found dead, drowned in fish net, off Polperro, Cornwall, 15.9.85. (93km; 174°; 124 days).
- B580955 Swallow. Ringed as juvenile on Lundy, 16.9.84. Found alive and released at Moy, Tyrone, N. Ireland, 4.6.85. (387km; 339°; 261 days).
- B580963 Robin. Ringed as first year bird on Lundy, 16.9.84. Found dead (cold weather) at Liskeard, Cornwall, 16.1.85. (83km; 168°; 122 days).
- B241443 Robin. Ringed as first year bird on Lundy; 24.9.83. Found dead (cold weather) on Lundy, Feb. 85. (about 509 days).
- B580837 Redstart. Ringed as adult female on Lundy, 16.9.84. Found at Ben Slimane, Morocco, 28.9.85. (1960km; 186°; 377 days).
- XH99096 Blackbird. Ringed as juvenile male on Lundy, 21.9.81. Found dead (cold weather) on Lundy, Feb. 85. (about 1242 days).
- C551416 Sedge Warbler. Ringed as full grown bird on Lundy, 17.5.85. Controlled at Stodmarsh, Kent, 18.8.85. (374km; 88°; 93 days).
- B580785 Blackcap. Ringed as adult female on Lundy, 7.5.84. Controlled on Bardsey, Gwynedd, N. Wales, 13.5.85. (178km; 357°; 371 days).
- 8J7475 Willow Warbler. Ringed as adult on Lundy, 1.5.85. Controlled on Bardsey, 4.5.85. (178km; 357°; 3 days).
- 6E3422 Willow Warbler. Ringed as adult on St. Agnes, Scilly Isles, 27.4.85. Controlled on Lundy, 30.4.85. (188km; 39°; 3 days).
- 8H5443 Goldcrest. Ringed as first year female on Lundy, 24.9.84. Killed by cat at West Christchurch, Dorset, 1.2.85. (206km; 105°; 130 days).
- B241024 Spotted Flycatcher. Ringed as first year bird on Lundy, 23.9.82. Caught at Barbate de Franco, Cadiz, Spain, 17.10.82. (1668km; 184°; 24 days).
- C551305 Pied Flycatcher. Ringed as adult female on Lundy, 30.4.85. Controlled (breeding) at Swindon Down, Barnstaple, Devon, 18.6.85. (42km; 95°; 49 days).
- BC08439 House Sparrow. Ringed as full grown male on Lundy, 9.10.84. Found dead on Lundy, 23.9.85. (349 days).
- B580928 Chaffinch. Ringed as first year male on Lundy, 16.9.84. Found stunned (hit glass), released, at Bideford, Devon, 15.3.85. (36km; 118°; 180 days).